

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5, 16, 17 and 25-27 as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A device for axially maintaining a cylindrical element, the device comprising:

a coupling bushing comprising external threads, first nut strips which extend axially beyond the external threads, and a first internal pressure surface;

a covering nut comprising a second internal pressure surface configured to engage and deform ends of the first nut strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly and towards the cylindrical element when the cylindrical element is introduced into the coupling bushing and the covering nut; and

a sleeve comprising second nut strips and an external diameter which is at most equal to an internal diameter of the coupling bushing, whereby the sleeve, with the second nut strips being introduced first, is adapted to be introduced into the coupling bushing,

wherein the first internal pressure surface is configured to engage and deform ends of the second nut strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly and towards the cylindrical element when the cylindrical element is introduced into the coupling bushing and the covering nut.

6. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, wherein the cylindrical element comprises a cable.

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, wherein the first and second internal pressure surfaces are configured to cause the first and second nut strips to be anchored in the cylindrical element when the covering nut is tightened.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, wherein the first and second internal pressure surfaces comprise tapered surfaces.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, wherein the first and second internal pressure surfaces comprise tapered surfaces which face in opposite directions.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, further comprising a tubular packing seal adapted to be inserted in, a final assembled position, between the cylindrical element and

the sleeve.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, further comprising a tubular packing seal adapted to be inserted in, a final assembled position, between the cylindrical element and the first nut strips.

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, further comprising a packing seal adapted to slide over the cylindrical element and into the sleeve.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 12, wherein the packing seal comprises a first part having a first external diameter and a second part having a different second external diameter.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13, wherein the first diameter is smaller than the second diameter, wherein the first diameter corresponds substantially to an internal diameter of the sleeve, and wherein the second diameter corresponds substantially to the internal diameter of the coupling bushing.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, wherein the covering nut comprises internal threads configured to threadably engage the external threads of the coupling bushing.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of fixing the cylindrical element using the device of claim 5, the method comprising:

arranging the coupling bushing on the cylindrical element with the first nut strips facing in a first direction;

arranging the sleeve on the cylindrical element with the second nut strips facing in a second opposite direction;

arranging the covering nut on the cylindrical element;

moving the covering nut towards the coupling bushing;

engaging and deforming ends of the second nut strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly with the first internal pressure surface by moving the covering nut towards the coupling bushing;

threadably engaging internal threads of the covering nut and the external threads of the coupling bushing; and

engaging and deforming ends of the first nut strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly with the second internal pressure surface by moving the covering nut further towards the coupling bushing.

17. (Currently Amended) A device for fixing a cable to a plug or a socket, the device comprising:

a coupling bushing comprising external threads, first strips which extend axially from one end of the coupling bushing, and a first internal tapered pressure surface;

a nut comprising internal threads and a second internal tapered pressure surface configured to engage and deform ends of the first strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly;

the internal threads of the nut being configured to threadably engage the external threads of the coupling bushing;

a sleeve comprising second strips which extend axially from one end of the sleeve;
and

the sleeve being configured to slide within the coupling bushing,

wherein the first internal tapered pressure surface is configured to engage and deform ends of the second strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly when the nut moves towards the coupling bushing.

18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, wherein the first and second internal tapered pressure surfaces are configured to cause the first and second strips to be anchored in the cable when the nut is tightened onto the coupling bushing.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, wherein the first and second internal tapered pressure surfaces face in opposite directions.

20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, further comprising a tubular packing seal adapted to be inserted between the cable and the sleeve.

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, further comprising a tubular packing seal adapted to be inserted between the cable and the first strips.

22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 17, further comprising a packing seal adapted to slide over the cable and into the sleeve.

23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the packing seal comprises a first part having a first external diameter and a second part having a different second external diameter.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein the first diameter is smaller than the second diameter, wherein the first diameter corresponds substantially to an internal diameter of the sleeve, and wherein the second diameter corresponds substantially

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to the internal diameter of the coupling bushing.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of fixing a cable to a plug or a socket using the device of claim 17, the method comprising:

arranging the coupling bushing on the cable with the first strips facing in a first direction;

arranging the sleeve on the cable with the second strips facing in a second opposite direction;

arranging the nut on the cable;

moving the nut towards the coupling bushing;

engaging and deforming ends of the second strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly with the first internal tapered pressure surface by moving the nut towards the coupling bushing;

threadably engaging the internal threads of the nut and the external threads of the coupling bushing; and

engaging and deforming ends of the first strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly with the second internal tapered pressure surface by moving the nut further towards the coupling bushing.

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26. (Currently Amended) A device for fixing a cable to a plug or a socket, the device comprising:

a coupling bushing comprising external threads, first strips which extend axially from one end of the coupling bushing, and a first internal tapered pressure surface;

a nut comprising internal threads and a second internal tapered pressure surface configured to engage and deform ends of the first strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly;

the internal threads of the nut being configured to threadably engage the external threads of the coupling bushing;

a sleeve comprising second strips which extend axially from one end of the sleeve;

the sleeve being configured to slide within the coupling bushing; and

a tubular packing seal adapted to be inserted partially into the sleeve and the coupling bushing,

wherein the first internal tapered pressure surface is configured to engage and deform ends of the second strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly when the nut moves towards the coupling bushing.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of fixing a cable to a plug or a socket using the device of claim 26, the method comprising:

arranging the coupling bushing on the cable with the first strips facing in a first

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direction;

arranging the sleeve on the cable with the second strips facing in a second opposite direction;

arranging the tubular packing seal on the cable;

arranging the nut on the cable;

moving the nut towards the packing seal until the second internal tapered surface engages the packing seal;

causing the sleeve and the packing seal to slide into the coupling bushing;

moving the nut towards the coupling bushing;

engaging and deforming ends of the second strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly with the first internal tapered pressure surface by moving the nut and the packing seal towards the coupling bushing;

threadably engaging the internal threads of the nut and the external threads of the coupling bushing; and

engaging and deforming ends of the first strips radially ~~inwardly~~ inwardly with the second internal tapered pressure surface by moving the nut further towards the coupling bushing.